

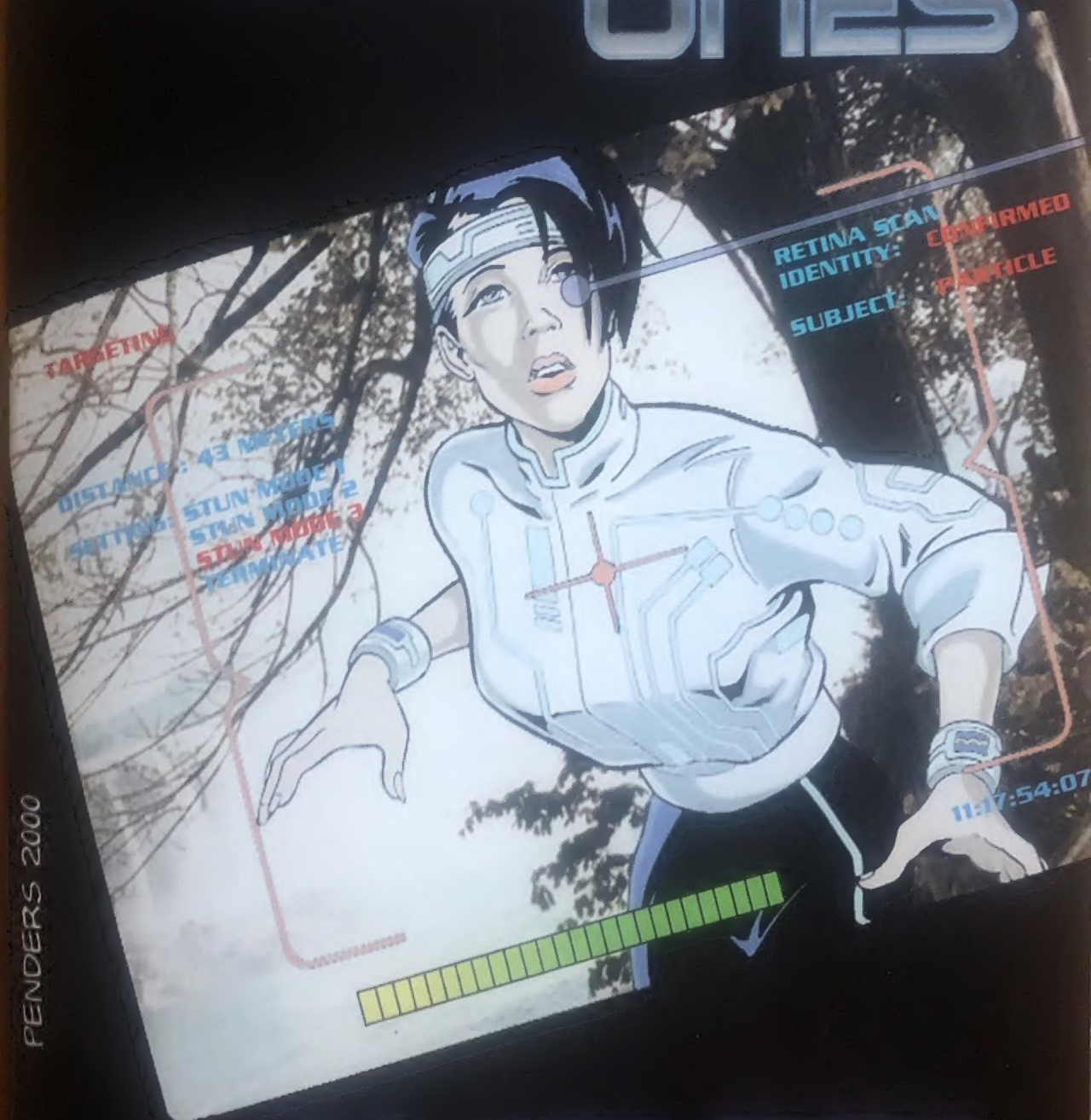


THEY'RE OUT THERE... HIDDEN
AMONG US! YOU'RE ABOUT TO
DISCOVER...

THE

KEN PENDERS'

LOST ONES™



PENDERS 2000

THE HUNT BEGINS...



Image
COMICS
PRESENTS

THE LOST ONES™

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AN **AERO** PRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE...



...where every home is jacked into the internet with hi-speed transmission, and widescreen is the accepted format for every form of digital video media.

... where a flight from New York to Tokyo is just under four hours, and Boston to Los Angeles is a daily commute.

... where the beaches along the Great Lakes are far more valuable waterfront property than the ocean fronts of either coastline, by virtue of the abundance of fresh water versus the lack thereof.

... where there are only two kinds of people -- those that matter -- and everyone else!

Or, to put it another way, there's THE LOST ONES -- and then there's you!

THE LOST ONES™, No. 1, MARCH, 2000. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Image Comics Inc. Office of publication: 1071 N. Batavia St. Suite A, Orange, CA 92867. \$2.95 US/\$4.70 in Canada. THE LOST ONES™, its logo, related characters and entire contents are Trademark™ and Copyright © 2000 by Ken Penders. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the express written consent of Ken Penders.

PRINTED IN CANADA

今、忘れ去られた人間の世界へ入る

*WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?*

THESE ARE QUESTIONS
WE ALL ASK OF OURSELVES
AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

WHILE SOME CAN TRACE THEIR FAMILY
LINEAGE BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS,
THERE ARE THOSE WHO LITERALLY
HAVEN'T A CLUE WHO THEIR PARENTS ARE.

THEN THERE ARE THOSE BORN TO WEALTH
AND PRIVELEGE, THEIR LIVES PREDETERMINED,
WHILE THE MAJORITY STRUGGLE MERELY
TO SURVIVE ANOTHER DAY.

FOR A SELECT FEW,
BORN WITHOUT AN AWARENESS OF
WHERE THEY CAME FROM, BUT WITH
AN ABILITY TO RESHAPE A WORLD,
THEY NOW FIND THEMSELVES AT THE
MOST IMPORTANT CROSSROADS
OF THEIR LIVES.

THIS IS THEIR STORY...




SOME PEOPLE THINK THE *PAST* IS WHATEVER JUST TOOK PLACE, THE *PRESENT* IS WHAT'S HAPPENING, AND THE *FUTURE* ONLY SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, VERY RARELY IF EVER LINKING *CAUSE* AND *EFFECT*.

I WAS LIKE THAT *MYSELF*.


ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS A *YOUNG PUNK* IN SCHOOL. SPENDING MORE TIME *GOOFING* AROUND WITH MY FRIENDS, *PLAYING* VIDEO GAMES FOR HOURS ON END, OR *MAJORING* IN AFTER-SCHOOL *SPORTS*.

HISTORY SEEMED SO *BORING* BACK THEN.

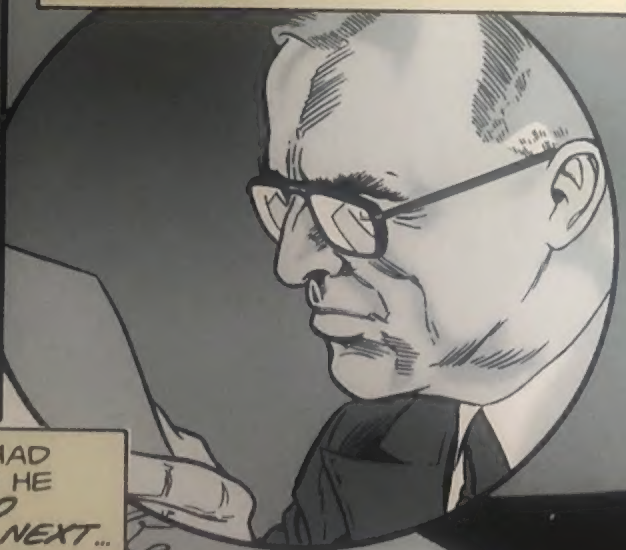
CONSIDER THE MORNING OF *JULY 31, 1945*. MY FATHER HADN'T EVEN BEEN BORN YET, BUT IT WAS BACK THEN THAT *EVENTS* WERE SET IN MOTION THAT WOULD *AFFECT* MY LIFE.



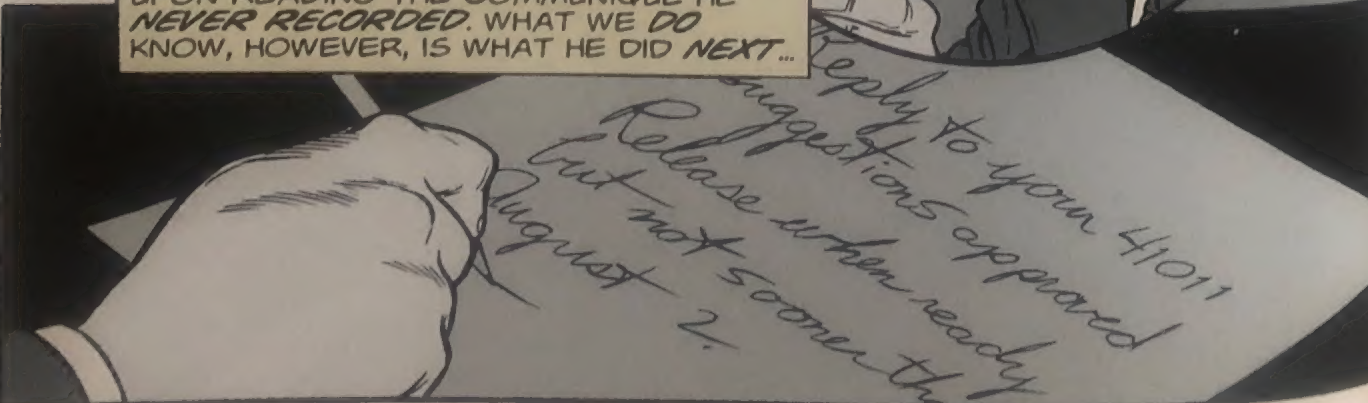
HARRY S TRUMAN, OUR RECENTLY SWORN-IN *33RD PRESIDENT*, WAS SITTING AT HIS DESK IN A VILLA HE OCCUPIED WHILE ATTENDING THE *POTSDAM CONFERENCE* WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER WINSTON CHURCHILL AND SOVIET DICTATOR JOSEPH STALIN...



IT WAS HERE THAT TRUMAN RECEIVED WORD THAT THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY HAD ENTERED A *NEW ERA*...



WHATEVER *THOUGHTS* TRUMAN HAD UPON READING THE COMMUNIQUE HE *NEVER RECORDED*. WHAT WE DO KNOW, HOWEVER, IS WHAT HE DID *NEXT*...



AND WITH THAT SIGNED ORDER, TRUMAN HAD *DETERMINED* THE FUTURE FOR *EVERYONE*, AT A COST *BEYOND* ANYONE'S WILDEST IMAGINATION...

BUT I'M GETTING A LITTLE
AHEAD OF MYSELF.

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT
BEGAN WITH A PHONE CALL
ON A ROUTINE MONDAY...

SIKORSKI!

JUST
FINISHING
SOME
REPORTS!

WHAAAAAT?!!

WITHIN MINUTES, I WAS **SCRAMBLING** WITH A FULL DETACHMENT OF **FIELD AGENTS** TOWARDS **REAGAN INTERNATIONAL!** ALL ALONG THE WAY, I COULDN'T HELP BUT **QUESTION** THE ORDERS WE WERE **GIVEN...**

-- ARREST A
TWENTY-
SOMETHING
**JAPANESE-
AMERICAN
CITIZEN**
ARRIVING VIA
COMMERCIAL
AIRLINE!

I'D LOVE TO
KNOW **HOW** SHE
GOT PAST
**JAPANESE
CUSTOMS** IF
SHE'S THIS
DANGEROUS!

WHO
CARES?

PROBABLY
SOME **TECHNO-
TERRORIST**
WITH
CLASSIFIED
INFORMATION!

SHE'S IN A **SELF-
CONTAINED**
ENVIRONMENT--
PRACTICALLY A
CLAY PIGEON!

DO WE REALLY
NEED ALL THIS
FIREPOWER TO
BRING HER IN?

I'LL TAKE ANY
ADVANTAGE I CAN
GET ANY DAY OF
THE WEEK!

AS LONG AS SHE'S
ON THAT PLANE--

"... SHE'S AS GOOD AS IN THE BAG!"

UNKNOWN TO ME AT THE TIME, AT THAT *EXACT* SAME MOMENT, THERE WERE OTHERS *NORTH* OF THE AMERICAN-CANADIAN BORDER AFTER THE SAME OBJECTIVE...

THE TRACKING BOARD HAS JUST REGISTERED HER FLIGHT AS HAVING ARRIVED, NUMBER SEVEN!

BUT I DON'T *SEE* HER *AMONG* THEM!

IN FACT, THERE'S A *LINE* OF PASSENGERS *WAITING* TO GET THROUGH!

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY SHE COULD EXIT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING?

SHE STILL HAS TO CLEAR *CUSTOMS*, SIR!

HIGHLY DOUBTFUL, SIR!

THIS IS A *HI-TECH* FACILITY WITH *STATE-OF-THE-ART* SECURITY!

SHE MUST BE SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, SEVEN!

EVEN SHE CAN'T DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR!

AGREED, SIR! BUT *WHERE* SHALL I *START* LOOKING?

WHERE INDEED DO YOU BEGIN A *HUNT* FOR ONE OF THE MOST *UNUSUAL* HUMAN BEINGS EVER TO WALK THE PLANET? A BEING WHOSE ABILITIES NOT ONLY MAKE HER *UNIQUE* AMONG HER OWN KIND, BUT ALSO ONE OF THE *MOST DANGEROUS* AND *ELUSIVE* TO CAPTURE! FOR SHE WIELDS THE POWER TO *CONTROL* THE *ELECTRON*, WHETHER IT OPERATES THE *NERVOUS SYSTEM* OF AN *ORGANIC BEING* OR THE FUNCTIONALITY OF THE MOST *ADVANCED MICROCHIP*!

KERI KUROSAWA WAS HER *PAST*! TODAY, SHE IS...

カスチル

ONE
OF THE

LOST
ONES™

...AND ALL SHE WANTS IS
THE FREEDOM TO *ENJOY*
LIFE LIKE ANY OTHER
AVERAGE PERSON!

WHAT SHE *WANTS*
IS ONE THING!
WHAT SHE HAS IS
THE *REALITY*...

THE "*DOGS*"
ARE *ALREADY*
OUT FOR ME --

-- BUT THIS IS
ONE "*FOX*"
WHO *WON'T*
EASILY BE
CAUGHT!

Canada Arrival
Arrivées Cana

THE HUNT BEGINS...

AFTER THIS ONCOMING
CAR PASSES BY I'LL
MAKE MY BREAK FOR IT!

CIRCLE THE OUTER
PERIMETER, SEVEN, AND IF
STILL NO SIGN OF HER,
RETURN TO BASE!

"YES, SIR!"

I KNOW I'M
GOING TO
REGRET THIS
LATER--

--BUT I DON'T
SEE ANY OTHER
FAST MEANS OF
ESCAPE!

Ka-
KLIK!

ANYTHING ELSE
COULD LEAVE ME
OPEN TO
DISCOVERY!

DEPENDING ON HOW
QUICK THIS CAR IS
REPORTED *STOLEN*, I
SHOULD BE ABLE TO
REACH THE
CANADIAN-
AMERICAN BORDER
WITHIN A COUPLE OF
HOURS!

AS FOR THE
OWNER OF THIS
CAR--

"--I'LL MAKE
AMENDS AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE!"

WE HAVE NOW
ARRIVED AT **REASAN**
INTERNATIONAL!

THE **LOCAL** TIME IS
3:47PM, WITH THE CURRENT
TEMPERATURE AT SIXTY-
FOUR DEGREES!

PLEASE **REMAIN** IN
YOUR SEATS **UNTIL** WE
HAVE COME TO A
COMPLETE **STOP!**

LET'S DO THIS BY
THE NUMBERS,
PEOPLE!

YEAH! WE WOULDN'T
WANT ANY
UNFORTUNATE
ACCIDENTS TO
HAPPEN!

TOCATA -- FBI!
WE'RE **LOOKING** FOR
A **PASSENGER!**

NO, WE
WOULDN'T!

GET **READY!** THEY'RE
OPENING THE DOORS
NOW!

THIS ONE IN
PARTICULAR!
WE'RE TOLD **SHE'S**
ONBOARD!

MAY WE SEE THE
PASSENGER
MANIFEST, MISS?

I HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYONE BEARING EVEN
THE **SLIGHTEST**
RESEMBLANCE TO THIS
WOMAN ON THE PLANE,
AGENT **TOCATA!**

CERTAINLY!

I DIDN'T KNOW
IT AT THE
TIME --

" -- BUT THAT WAS WHEN THE WORLD AS I **KNEW** IT HAD CHANGED **FOREVER!**

THE **BOMB** YOU ARE ABOUT TO DROP IS SOMETHING **NEW** IN THE HISTORY OF **WARFARE!**

IT IS THE **MOST** DESTRUCTIVE WEAPON **EVER** PRODUCED! WE THINK IT WILL KNOCK OUT **EVERYTHING** WITHIN A THREE-MILE RADIUS!

August 4, 1945 3:00PM
North Field, Tinian Island

NOW IF SOMEONE WILL PLEASE **DIM** THE LIGHTS...

SORRY, SIR. THE **FILM** IS GETTING **CHEWED UP** IN THE SPROCKETS!

THE **FLASH** OF THE EXPLOSION WAS SEEN FOR **MORE THAN TEN MILES!** A SOLDIER 10,000 FEET AWAY WAS **KNOCKED OFF HIS FEET!** ANOTHER SOLDIER MORE THAN **FIVE MILES** AWAY WAS **TEMPORARILY BLINDED!** A GIRL IN A TOWN MANY MILES AWAY WHO HAD BEEN **BLIND** ALL HER LIFE **SAW** A FLASH OF LIGHT! THE EXPLOSION WAS HEARD **FIFTY MILES AWAY!**

THE **FILM** YOU ARE **NOT** ABOUT TO SEE WAS MADE OF THE **ONLY** TEST WE HAVE PERFORMED! THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED --

FOR THOSE OF US WHO WERE THERE, IT WAS THE **BEGINNING** OF A **NEW AGE!**

NO ONE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THE **BOMB** IS DROPPED FROM THE AIR. THAT HAS NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE. BUT WE DO EXPECT A CLOUD WILL RISE TO AT LEAST 30,000 FEET AND MAYBE 60,000 FEET, PRECEDED BY A FLASH OF LIGHT MUCH BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN'S.

YOU'RE NOW THE **HOTTEST** CREWS IN THE AIR FORCE. **NO TALKING -- TO ANYONE!** NO TALKING EVEN AMONGST **YOURSELVES!** NO LETTERS! NO WRITING HOME! NO MENTIONING OF THE **SLIGHTEST** POSSIBILITY OF A MISSION!

"**NOTHING** I HAD EVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED COULD **POSSIBLY** PREPARE ME FOR THE EVENTS YET UNFOLDING --



" -- OR THE
OBJECTIVE OF
MY LATEST
ASSIGNMENT... "

ONLY A COUPLE OF
MINUTES NOW UNTIL
I HIT *CUSTOMS!*

MY *BIRTH*
CERTIFICATE MAY
STATE I'M AN
AMERICAN --

FORTUNATELY, I
HAVE AN *EDGE!*

PLEASE
STATE YOUR
CITIZENSHIP!

AMERICAN.

LET'S
SEE YOUR
IDENTITY
CARD.

-- BUT DRIVING A
CAR WITH *CANADIAN*
PLATES IS STILL GOING
TO AROUSE SOME
QUESTIONS!

CERTAINLY.


THANK
YOU,
MA'AM.

HAYAKU!
HAYAKU!

THAT CUSTOMS
OFFICIAL IS TAKING
LONGER THAN
USUAL!

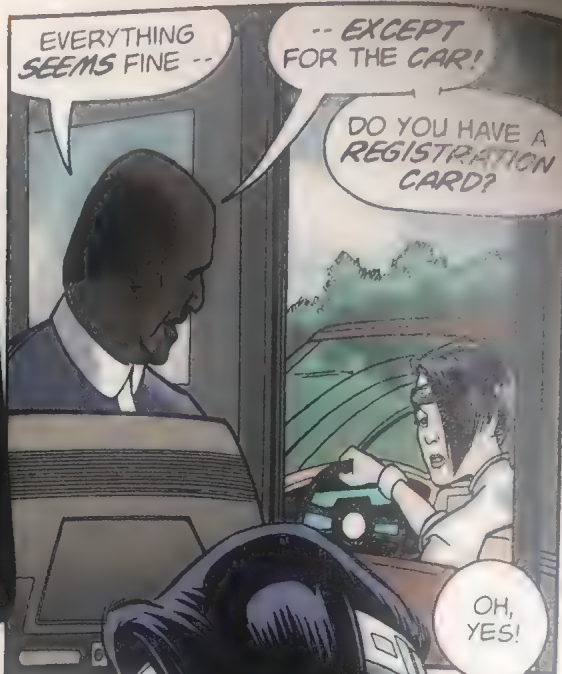
COULD I
HAVE *FORGOTTEN*
ANYTHING DURING
REPROGRAMMING?

STATES IDENTIFICATION CARD
CITIZEN 00792858331



NAME: Anita Kachurano deo
ADDRESS: 95 Azalea Drive
CITY/STATE: West Seneca, NY
ZIP CODE: 14224-3517
TELEPHONE: 797-435-0077
HT: 162.56 cm
WT: 48.98 kg
HAIR: Black
EYES: Violet
SEX: Female
BIRTH: 09-28-00
LICENSE NUMBER: A2374

PERSONAL
MEDICAL
EMPLOYMENT
FINANCIAL
POLITICAL



EVERYTHING SEEMS FINE --

-- EXCEPT FOR THE CAR!

DO YOU HAVE A REGISTRATION CARD?

OH, YES!



THE CAR BELONGS TO MY UNCLE!

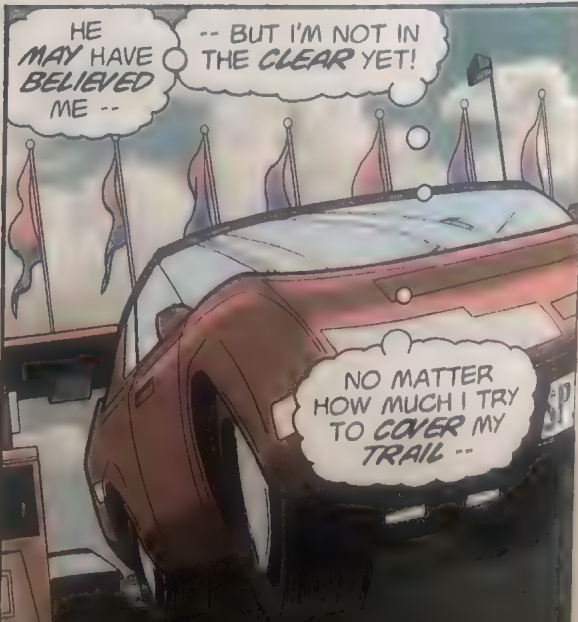
I'VE BEEN STAYING WITH HIM AND MY AUNT FLORENCE FOR A FEW DAYS!

HE LET ME USE HIS CAR TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS WHILE MINE IS IN THE SHOP!



EVERYTHING APPEARS TO BE IN ORDER, MISS WEBB!

HAVE A NICE DAY!



HE MAY HAVE BELIEVED ME --

-- BUT I'M NOT IN THE CLEAR YET!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO COVER MY TRAIL --

"-- THERE'S NO TELLING
WHO ELSE IS AFTER ME!"

FBI Headquarters, 5:47PM

-- THERE WASN'T
ANY TRACE OF *MS.
KUROSAWA* ON
BOARD AT ALL!

QUESTIONING
EVERYONE WHO WAS
ON THAT FLIGHT
PROVED EQUALLY
USELESS!

NO ONE HAD EVEN
SEEN HER, LET
ALONE HAD ANY
IDEA AS TO *WHO*
SHE WAS!

AND WHAT DO YOU
HAVE TO SAY ABOUT
WHAT TRANSPIRED,
AGENT SIKORSKI?

THAT'S PRETTY
MUCH HOW
EVERYTHING WENT
DOWN, MA'AM!

AGENT TOCATA
WAS *STRICTLY*
BY THE *BOOK!*

THAT MAY BE,
BUT THE PEOPLE
UPSTAIRS ARE
VERY UNHAPPY
OVER THIS!

OUR *INTELLIGENCE*
ON THIS MATTER
WAS *BADLY*
COMPROMISED!

YOU'RE TO PRESS
ON WITH OTHER
MATTERS UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE,
AGENT TOCATA!
DISMISSED!

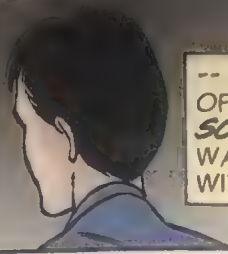
AS FOR
YOU, *AGENT*
SIKORSKI --

-- YOU WILL *REMAIN*
TO DISCUSS YOUR
NEXT ASSIGNMENT!

YES,
MA'AM!

SOMETHING *WEIRD* WAS GOING ON,
AND I COULD TELL FROM *TOCATA'S*
EXPRESSION HE FELT THE SAME THING,
BUT AS I WAS LATER TO LEARN --

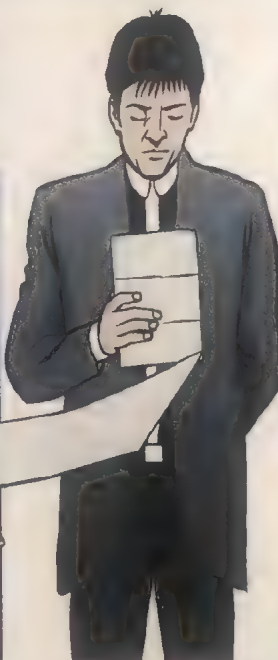
-- THE REASONS HE WAS BEING *BYPASSED* IN REGARDS TO CONTINUING THE ASSIGNMENT --



-- WERE THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHY *SOMEONE ELSE* WANTED ME TO RUN WITH THE BALL.



THE *DIRECTORATE* HAS SENT DOWN *NEW ORDERS* FOR YOU, AGENT SIKORSKI.



ARE THEY *SERIOUS*?

THIS *DOESN'T* EVEN BEGIN TO *DEFINE* WHAT I'M TO INVESTIGATE!

APPARENTLY, A HIGHER AUTHORITY BELIEVES *SOMETHING* IN BUFFALO, NEW YORK, IS OF SUFFICIENT *IMPORTANCE* TO WARRANT SENDING AN AGENT!



YOU BETTER GET MOVING. YOUR PLANE LEAVES IN TWO HOURS!

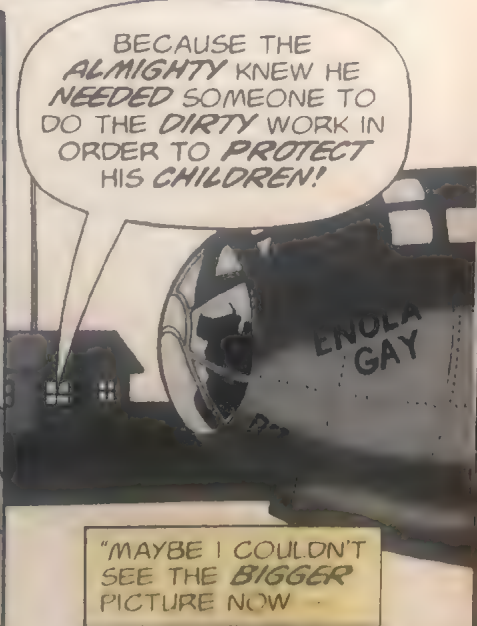
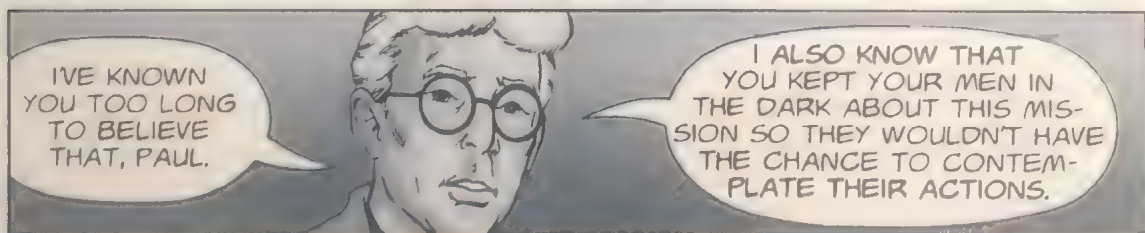
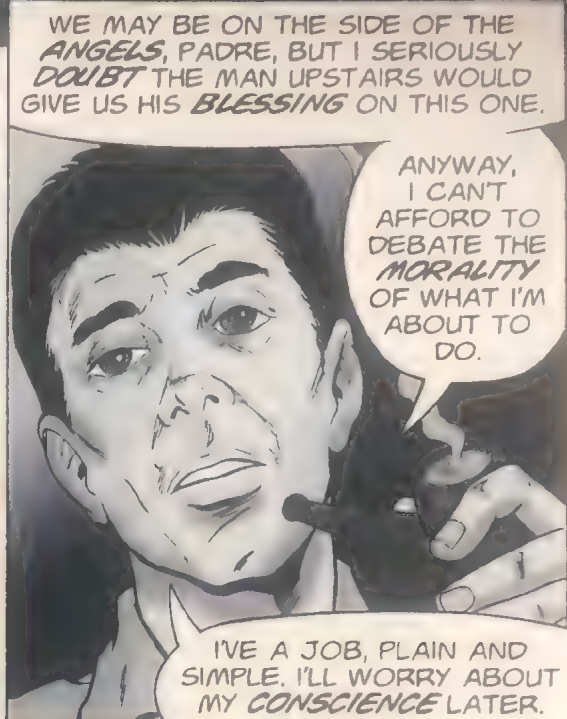
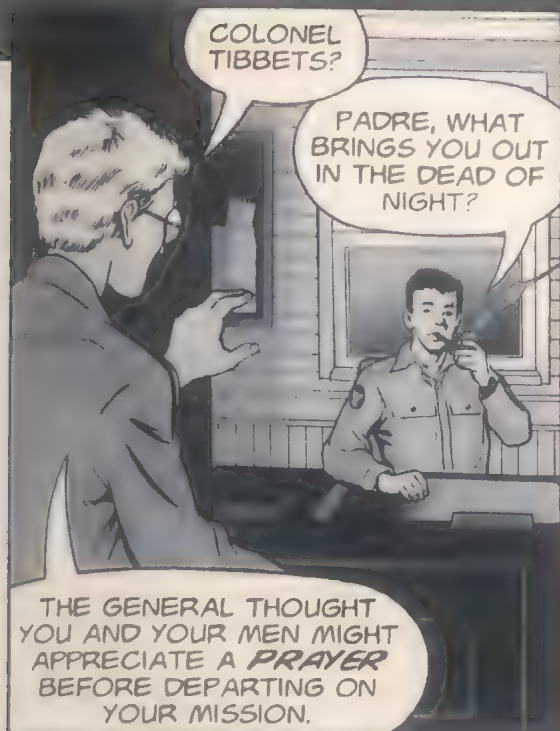
I'LL BE ON IT.



AS I WALKED OUT OF THAT ROOM, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WONDER ABOUT THE OTHER *POOR SOULS* IN HISTORY WHO WERE GIVEN ORDERS OF *DUBIOUS* MERIT FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT --

"-- AND IF THEY **QUESTIONED** THE RATIONALE OF THOSE ORDERS AS I FELT THE **STRONG** URGE TO..."

August 6, 1945 12:30AM
509th Composite Group Orderly Room
Tinian Island



" -- BUT WHO'S TO SAY *WHAT* I'D TURN UP ONCE I STARTED DIGGING AROUND...

252 MIDDLEBURY AVE
Buffalo, NY 14201

KOKONI
IRUBEKIDWA
NAIYOUNA
KIGASURU.

I WAS ALL
OF *FOUR*
YEARS OLD THE
LAST TIME I
WAS *HERE!*

IF NOT FOR THE
FACT THAT I WAS
BORN HERE --

" -- I WOULDN'T
FEEL *ANY* SENSE
OF *CONNECTION!*"

ANY SIGN OF
HER, NINE?

POSSIBLY,
DOCTOR.

THERE'S *SOMEONE*
SITTING IN A *CAR*
ACROSS THE STREET.

MALE OR
FEMALE?



HARD
TO TELL!

DOES THIS PERSON BEAR
EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
RESEMBLANCE TO THE
MOST RECENT PHOTO
BELIEVED TO BE OF ALPHA
TARGET, NINE?

MAGNIFYING --

-- AND
COMPARING WITH
THE JPEG YOU
UPLOADED!

EVEN ALLOWING FOR AGE
DIFFERENCE AND HAIR
STYLES, IT'S HARD TO
SAY IF WE HAVE A
POSITIVE MATCH!

KEEP AN EYE ON HER
ANYWAY! EVEN IF
SHE ISN'T THE
ALPHA TARGET --

-- IT'S CONCEIVABLE
THIS ONE KNOWS
WHERE SHE IS!

YOUR SUSPICIONS
MAY PROVE CORRECT,
DOCTOR

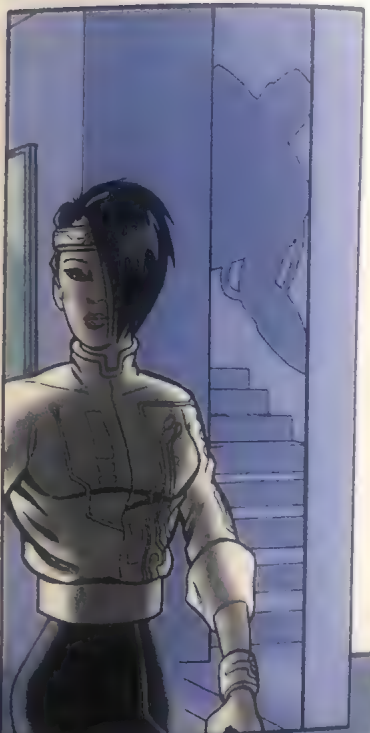


-- AS SHE'S
GETTING OUT OF
THE CAR --



-- AND
HEADING *THIS*
WAY!

YOU KNOW WHAT
TO DO, NINE!



EEYAAAAAHHHHHHHH



AGENT
SIKORSKI IS
HERE TO SEE
YOU, SIR!

RIGHT.
SEND HIM
IN!

SO WHO'D
YOU TICK OFF
TO GET THIS
DETAIL, SON?

HEADQUARTERS
USUALLY SENDS ITS'
MOST **UNWANTED**
HERE!

FBI BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE
One FBI Plaza, Buffalo, NY

I'M AFRAID
I DON'T
FOLLOW!

WE TEND TO BE
ON THE RECEIVING
END OF A LOT OF
JOKES!

REALLY?
SEEMS
RATHER NICE
AROUND
HERE!

DIDN'T THEIR
FOOTBALL TEAM
JUST WIN A
SUPER BOWL?

THEIR **THIRD**
IN A ROW! THE
QUARTERBACK
HAS A GUN FOR
AN ARM!

SO WHAT
BRINGS YOU
HERE?

I'M HERE
CONCERNING THE
**KUROSAWA DIS-
APPEARANCE!**

YOU MEAN
THEY'VE COME
UP WITH
SOMETHING?

WE HAVEN'T
HAD A **LEAD**
ON THAT ONE
IN YEARS!

APPARENTLY,
THERE'S BEEN
A **SIGHTING!**

SINCE THE FAMILY'S
LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
WAS IN THIS AREA, IT'S
BELIEVED THEY MAY BE
ATTEMPTING TO
RETURN!

RETURN
FOR
WHAT?

THAT WAS THE
TRILLION DOLLAR
QUESTION..."

TOWER TO
DIMPLES EIGHT
TWO. CLEAR FOR
TAKE-OFF!

August 6, 1945 2:42AM

"I WAS TAUGHT FROM DAY
ONE OF MY CAREER THAT
EVERYTHING IS **ROUTINE**
UNTIL THE PATTERN IS
BROKEN...

"ONLY THOSE ABOUT
TO TAKE **UNEXPECTED,**
DEVASTATING
ACTION --

" -- TAKE GREAT PAINS AT PRESERVING
THE **ILLUSION** OF EVERYDAY NORMALCY --

**LITTLE
BOY IS NOW
ARMED,
COLONEL!**

" -- UNTIL THE
**MOMENT OF
IMPACT!"**

WHEN THE BOMB IS
DROPPED, LIEUTENANT
BESSER WILL RECORD
OUR **REACTIONS** TO
WHAT WE SEE!

WE ARE
CARRYING
THE WORLD'S
**FIRST
ATOMIC
BOMB!**

THIS RECORDING IS
BEING MADE FOR
HISTORY! WATCH
YOUR LANGUAGE
AND DON'T CLUTTER
UP THE INTERCOM!

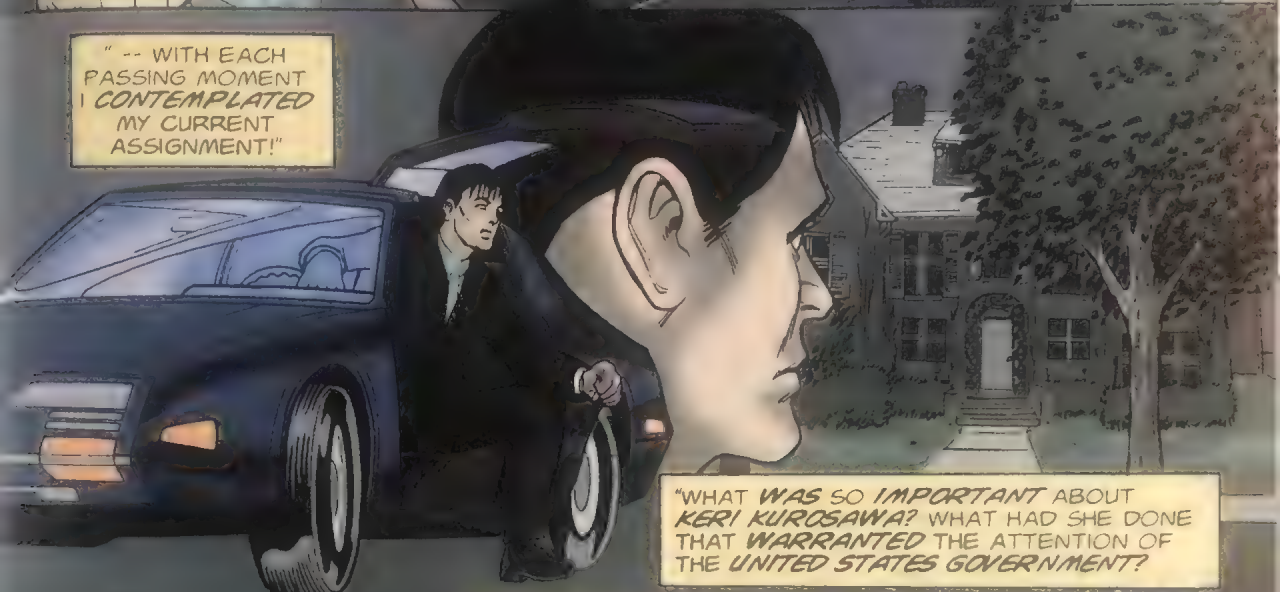
"MORE OFTEN THAN
NOT, HOWEVER

" -- THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED EITHER DIDN'T SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE OR UNDERSTAND THE *RAMIFICATIONS* OF THEIR ACTIONS --

" -- A STATE OF MIND I COULD *RELATE* TO VERY MUCH IN THE HERE AND NOW --



" -- WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT I *CONTEMPLATED* MY CURRENT ASSIGNMENT!"



"WHAT *WAS* SO IMPORTANT ABOUT *KERI KUROSAWA*? WHAT HAD SHE DONE THAT *WARRANTED* THE ATTENTION OF THE *UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT*?"



"I WAS DIRECTED TO *ARREST* HER, ON CHARGES THAT IN PLAIN ENGLISH WERE *NEBULOUS* AT BEST..."

"I WAS *WARNED* TO TAKE ANY AND ALL *NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS*, BUT NOBODY GAVE ME A CLUE AS TO WHAT MADE *HER* SO *DANGEROUS*..."

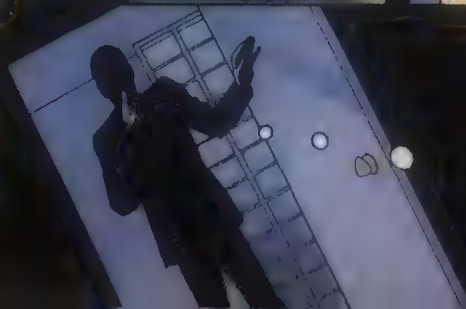


"BUT MAYBE THAT WAS THE POINT --



"IF WE WERE AFTER HER, DIDN'T IT STAND TO REASON THAT *OTHERS* MIGHT BE AS WELL?"

"AND IF SO, WHAT *SECRETS* WOULD I FIND POSSIBLY *UNLOCKED* IN HERE?"



IT'S ALMOST TOO QUIET!



IT'S *NOT* THE
ALPHA TARGET,
SIR!

THERE MUST BE
NO WITNESSES!

UNDERSTOOD!

OBTAINING
THIRTEEN!

IN THAT CASE --
ELIMINATE HIM!

STOP!!
-- OR I'LL
SHOOT!

HE TALKS AS IF
SOMEONE WERE
COMMUNICATING
WITH HIM --

-- BUT
THERE'S *NO*
ONE ELSE
AROUND!



IF I HAD FIGURED I WAS GOING TO BE IN A FIGHT FOR MY LIFE, I'D HAVE ARMED MYSELF WITH MORE THAN JUST A STANDARD ISSUE REVOLVER.

ON THE PLUS SIDE, HIS MOVEMENTS WERE A BIT SLOW, AS THOUGH HE WERE PROGRAMMED.

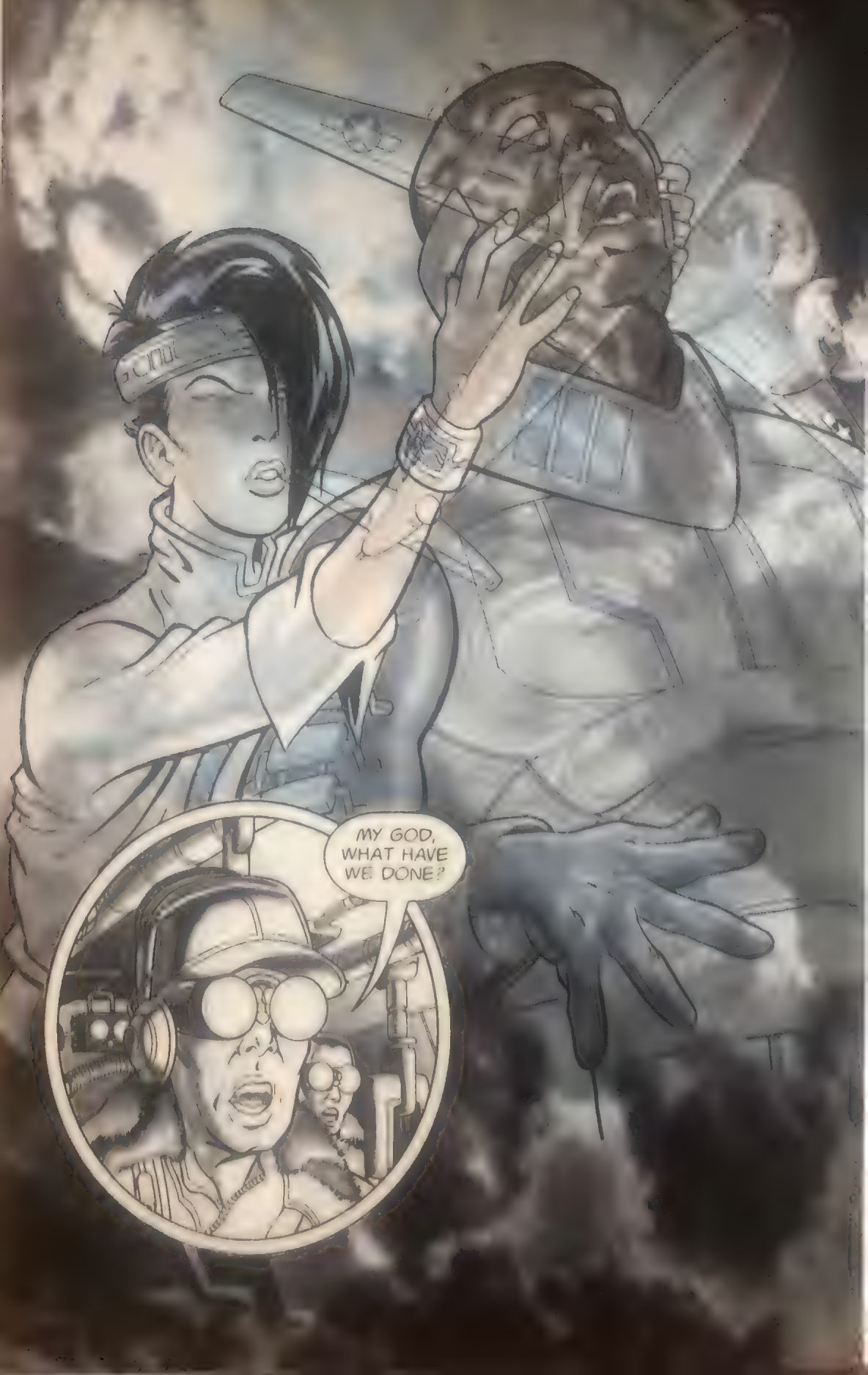
IN THE NEGATIVE COLUMN, WHEN HE DID CONNECT, IT WAS LIKE HITTING A BRICK WALL.

NOW FINISH HIM OFF, THIRTEEN.

GET UP!

IN MY HAZE, I KEPT THINKING OF THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO USE FORCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR ENDS --

-- ONLY TO END UP ENCOUNTERING A *STRONGER* FORCE THAN THEY WERE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH!





IT'S FORTUNATE I BROKE
THE LINK WITH THIRTEEN
BEFORE THE FEEDBACK
HIT MAXIMUM SURGE --

-- OTHERWISE THE
CONSOLE WOULDN'T
BE THE ONLY PIECE
OF EQUIPMENT WITH
FIRED CIRCUITS!

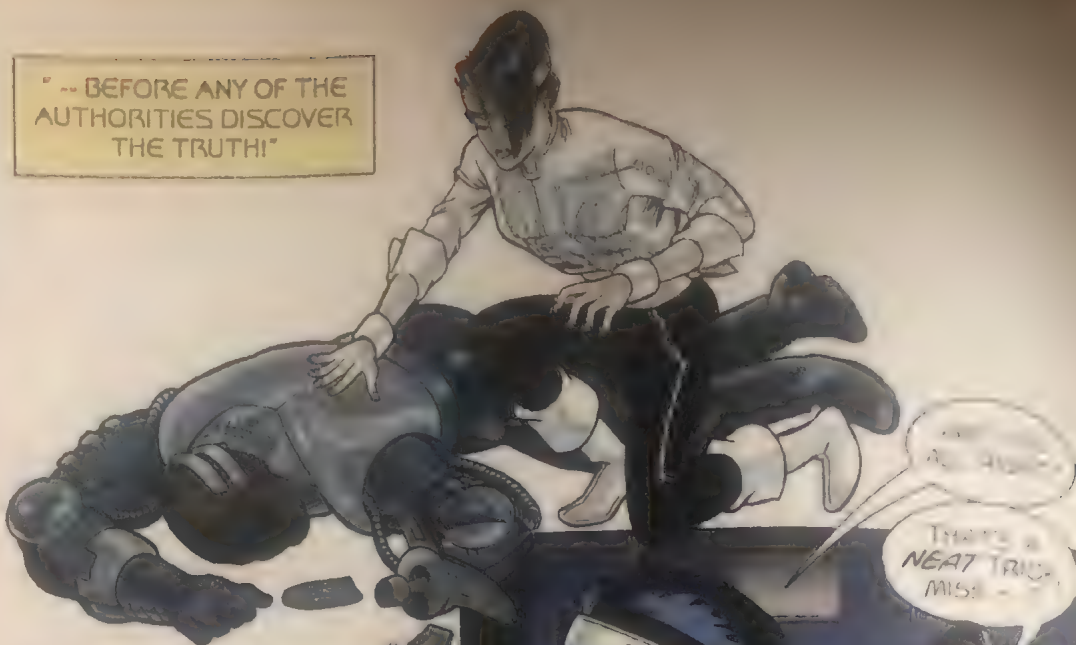
ASTONISHING!
THIS COULD BE
PRELIMINARY
CONFIRMATION
THAT ALPHA
TARGET NOT
ONLY WAS IN
THE VICINITY --

FOR THE
MOMENT --

-- IT'S MORE
IMPERATIVE I
LEARN WHAT'S
BECOME OF NINE
AND THIRTEEN --

-- BUT EVEN MORE
DANGEROUS THAN I
BELIEVED POSSIBLE!

"-- BEFORE ANY OF THE
AUTHORITIES DISCOVER
THE TRUTH!"



THAT'S A
NEAT TRICK,
MIS!

I'M NOT IN
THE HABIT OF
IDENTIFYING
MYSELF TO
STRANGERS!

I DIDN'T
EXPECT YOU
WOULD --



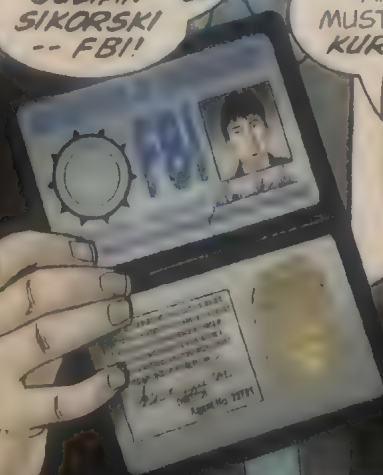
-- IF YOU
WERE ON THE
RUN FROM
SOMEONE,
PERHAPS?

I WAS SENT TO
APPREHEND YOU,
BUT I HAVE A HARD
TIME TAKING INTO
CUSTODY SOMEONE
WHO MAY HAVE
SAVED MY LIFE!

MAYBE --
BUT I
DOUBT IT!

JULIAN
SIKORSKI
-- FBI!

AND YOU
MUST BE KERI
KUROSAWA!



YOU'RE JUST
GUESSING!

ESPECIALLY
WHEN I'M NOT
TOLD WHY!

CAN YOU
EXPLAIN THE
CODE NAME
PARTICLET





IS A
GOVERNMENT
AGENT, AND YOU
DON'T KNOW?

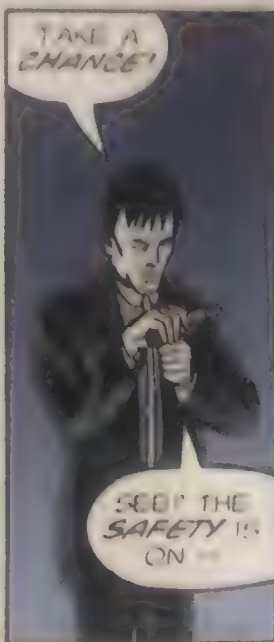
INTENDING TO
ASSASSINATE ME?
BUT ALL OF MY
WORK WAS IN THE
SHADOWS?

YOU LOOK
HONEST! YOU MAY
EVEN BE TELLING
THE TRUTH!



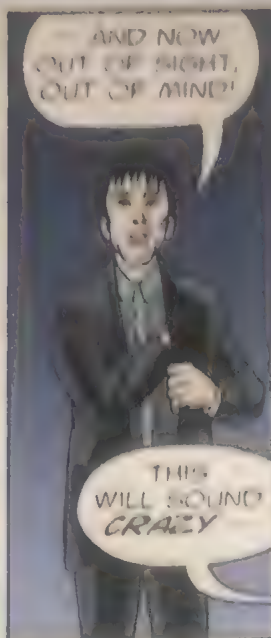
BUT
HOW CAN I
KNOW?

TAKE A
CHANCE!



SEE? THE
SAFETY IS
ON

— AND NOW
OUT OF SIGHT,
OUT OF MIND!



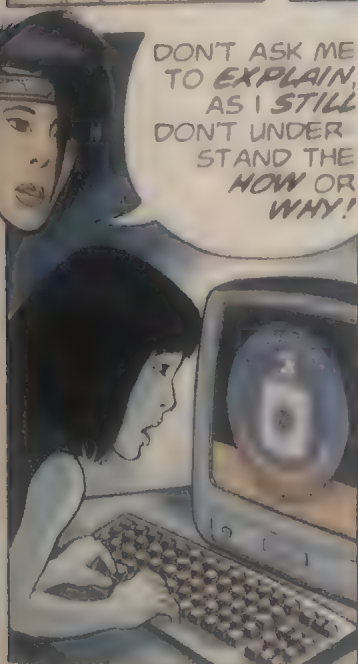
THIS
WILL SOUND
CRAZY

BUT WHEN I
STARTED GOING
THROUGH
PUBERTY

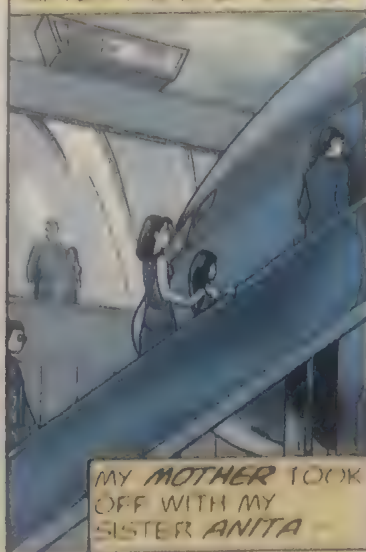


I
DEVELOPED
THESE
ABILITIES

DON'T ASK ME
TO EXPLAIN,
AS I STILL
DON'T UNDER-
STAND THE
HOW OR
WHY!



PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN
KNOW HAVE BEEN
AFTER ME EVER SINCE!



MY MOTHER TOOK
OFF WITH MY
SISTER ANITA

— AND I WAS WITH MY
FATHER UNTIL WE SEP-
ARATED OVER TWO
YEARS AGO!



RUN,
KERI!!!

I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR MY FAMILY
EVER SINCE!

I PRESUME WHAT
I WITNESSED
WAS JUST A
SMALL SAMPLE?



BARELY
NOTICED THE
SURFACE!

SO
WHAT
NOW?

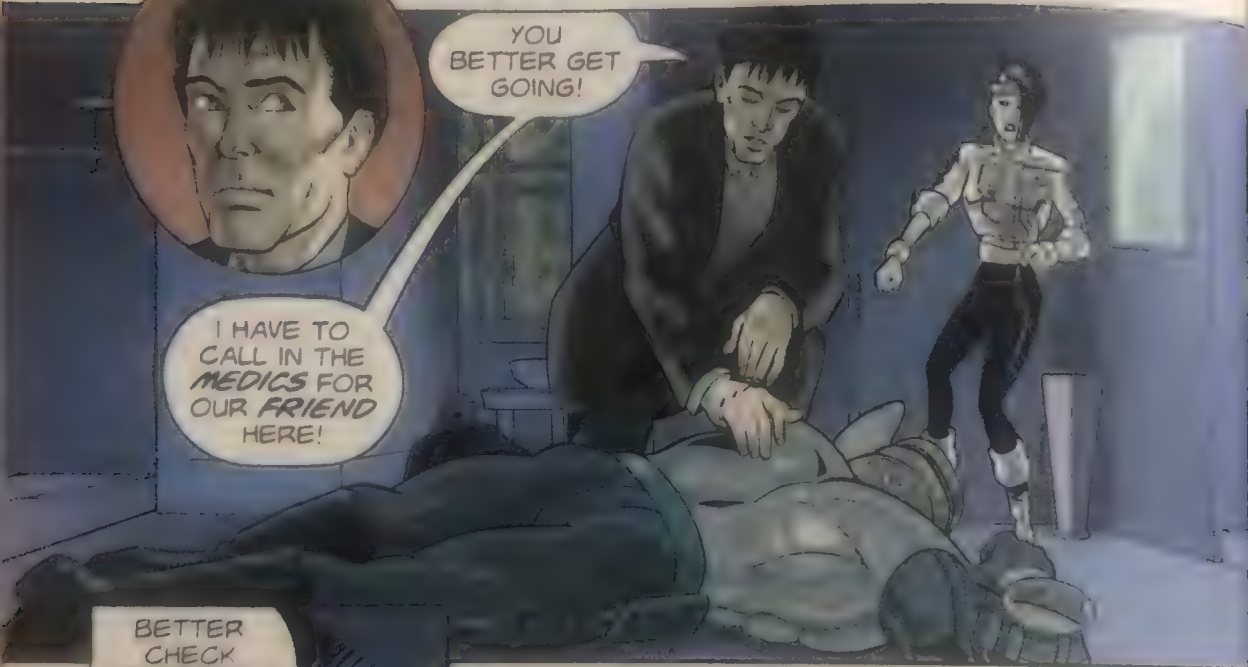


...AND?

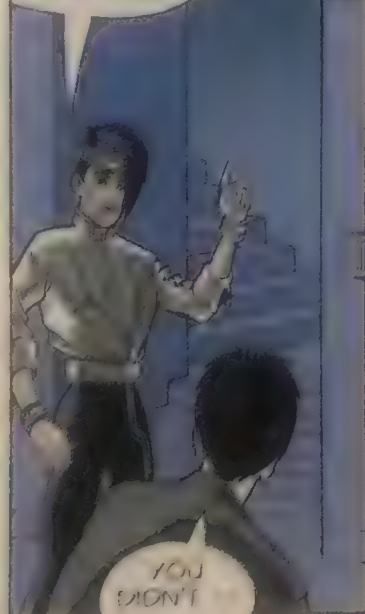


YOU
BETTER
GET
GOING!

I HAVE TO
CALL IN THE
MEDICS FOR
OUR FRIEND
HERE!



BETTER
CHECK
UPSTAIRS!
THERE'S
ANOTHER!



YOU
DIDN'T

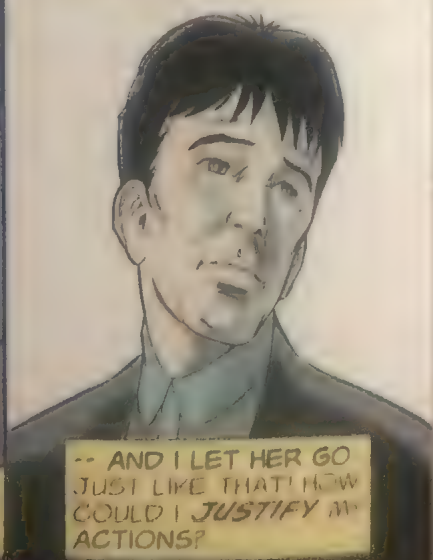
I'VE
NEVER
KILLED!

NOT
EVEN IN SELF
DEFENSE!




I SHOULD'VE HANDED
IN MY RESIGNATION
RIGHT THEN AND THERE.

MY ASSIGNMENT WAS
TO TAKE KERI KURO-
SAWA INTO CUSTODY



-- AND I LET HER GO
JUST LIKE THAT! HOW
COULD I JUSTIFY MY
ACTIONS?



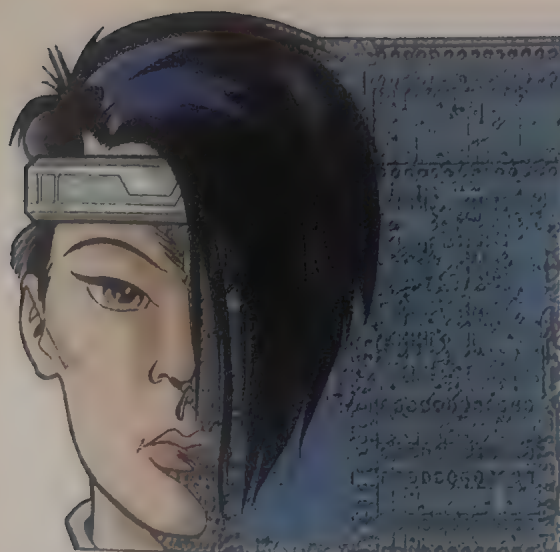
THERE WERE TOO
MANY *QUESTIONS*
AND NOT ENOUGH
ANSWERS!

I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO
ASK WHETHER SHE HAD
FOUND ANY LEADS AS
TO HER FAMILY'S
WHEREABOUTS --

-- OR IF SHE EVEN
KNEW ANYTHING AT
ALL ABOUT THE
MEN WHO TRIED
TO *CAPTURE* HER.

MAYBE
SOMEDAY,
I'D FIND OUT.

SOMEDAY,
BUT NOT
TODAY



I can hear you asking already. How come some of the thought balloons are in Japanese when English was doing just fine up until then? What's with the World War II sequences? And who was that weird guy in the hi-tech control room? Fair questions all, and the reason for this page in every issue. This is where you'll come to find the English translation of any caption in a foreign language, most notably Japanese for our purposes, as well as background information of the characters and plots I haven't space for in the current issue, but which has been revealed in previous issues.

Since this is the debut issue, it's hard to have previous information about a series that hasn't existed before. Unless you were one of the fortunate readers to pick up a copy of SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7 (featuring the now-famous Sonic-Image Crossover classic published by Archie Comics) where Particle and her sister Tsunami, not to mention our mysterious villain this issue, were introduced, or the 16-page THE LOST ONES: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY sneak preview I've been promoting at various conventions, featuring information about the characters and setting of this series, chances are this is your first exposure to the world of THE LOST ONES. With that in mind, it's only fair that some background be provided.

TRANSLATION

Let's take the easiest question first: the use of the Japanese language. Keri Kurosawa (AKA Particle) and her sister may have been born Japanese-American, but they were raised primarily in Japan, having grown up using Japanese as much as English, and tend to lapse into talking and thinking in Japanese, especially in moments of stress.

As a creator, I initially wanted Japanese much more extensively, but ended up doing. I decided in the end to simply use it very sparingly at first to allow readers to grow comfortable with the concept, giving me a chance to show them I wouldn't leave them hanging in the dark.

Like the culture that spawned it, the Japanese language is a subtle and nuanced one. In most cases, there are no literal translations on a one-to-one basis. Tone and inflection can alter the very context in which a word is used.

Thus, on page nine, when Keri is impatiently thinking "Hayaku! Hayaku!", which is pronounced ha-ya-koo, it can be interpreted as either "Hurry! Hurry!" or "Quick! Quick!" We Americans might be muttering "C'mon! C'mon!" to ourselves, but it doesn't translate directly as such in Japanese.

The same applies to page 14, panel 2 when Keri is sitting in the car looking upon her family home for the first time in years and thinks "Kokoni irubekidewa naiyouna kigasuru." In English, Keri would be thinking "I really don't belong here", but in Japanese, pronounced co-co-nee ee-roo-beh-kee-deh-wa nigh-yoy-na kee-ga-soo-roo, the phrase translates to the female form of "I don't think I should be here." (In this case, the male form is the same, but in many expressions there is a difference.)

Thus, one of the main keys for understanding Japanese is how a word or phrase is used. It varies depending on the circumstances and content.

Another example is the fan art page where Tsunami greets everyone with "kon-nichi wa", pronounced kuh-nee-chee wa, which can be used as either "hello" or "good afternoon".

As for the Japanese characters on page one, the first ten readers who send in the correct translation will each win a free sketch of Particle from yours truly. The winners' names will be printed in next issue's

the name, as well as displayed on the
new website (www.thelostones.com)

CHARACTERS

Now the name of the book is THE LOST
ONES so who and what are they?

As you may have guessed, Keri is but one of
the many Lost Ones you'll encounter in the
coming issues. Who and what they are is
the big mystery that both you and our char-
acters are on a journey to uncover

Fortunately for her, though she may not
think so at this time, Keri has an unsuspect-
ing ally in the form of FBI Agent Julian
Sakerski, a by-the-book agent who's clearly
going places within the bureau. In his late
20s and single, it's quite possible his motives
for releasing Keri were more than just recip-
rocal for saving his life.

Our villain, though not yet named, already
presents a figure that suggests something
more than human or not quite, depending
upon one's point-of-view. Though a major
player in the events yet to unfold, it remains
to be seen where he fits in the overall
scheme, and whose interests he's really
serving. (Those of you who paid attention
during SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7 have a
head start as to his identity, whereas those
who've read THE LOST ONES: FOR YOUR EYES
ONLY already know.)

As for his hi-tech soldiers, or drones, there's
more than a few secrets waiting to be told
about them, and they're not quite so obvi-
ous at first glance as you may think.

In regards to Agent Tocata and Julian's
superior, for the moment, they are merely
background players in the overall tapestry
of our narrative, but who's to say they may
not play a bigger part at some point in the
future?

In the next issue, you'll meet three new key
figures, as well as learn a lot more about the
ones featured in this issue.

SETTING

Now, I thought of establishing the setting
of the series as taking place literally tomor-
row. What I opted for instead was simply to
set the story in a world where the LOST
ONES story takes place five to fifteen

years from now. This way, the story is set in a
world that is not too far from the present, but
one that is not too close to the present either.
This way, the story is not too far from the present,
but one that is not too close to the present either.

(One of the most common criticisms of
any science fiction story is that it's about
growing up is that those who have grown
place during established times and who
since passed by cannot be recognized in
the reality we currently live in. We haven't
experienced the eugenics wars that Star
Trek informed us about, nor are we on the
verge of going to Mars, let alone Alpha
Centuri as the Space Family Robinson were
about to do, any time soon. And I don't
even want to think about 2001.)

THEME

In the coming issues, we'll be re-establishing
previous plotlines for those who missed
what came before, but for now, I'd like to
talk about what this book is about.

It's about the journey of discovering who
oneself is, where a person fits into the over-
all scheme of life, and the options one has
along the course of his/her life. It's about
daring to dream for something better in life,
and taking action to make it come true.
Standing in the way are those who want
everyone to conform of how they see life
should be, and they'll do anything they
can to ensure everyone falls in line with that
vision.

THE LOST ONES is also about acceptance,
getting along with others regardless of the
differences, and maybe, sometimes,
because of them.

Join us again next issue, won't you, as we
resume the journey...together.

NOTE:

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NEXT ISSUE
GOES ON SALE
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KONNICHI WA! MY NAME IS TSUNAMI --OTHERS
KNOWN AS KERI'S YOUNGER SISTER ANITA -- I'D
LIKE TO PRESENT THE VERY FIRST

LOST ONES FAN ART PAGE

LOOK FOR
ME NEXT
ISSUE!

LIEN NYUGEN
San Diego, CA
Age 17

Send your drawings, either
black & white or color to:

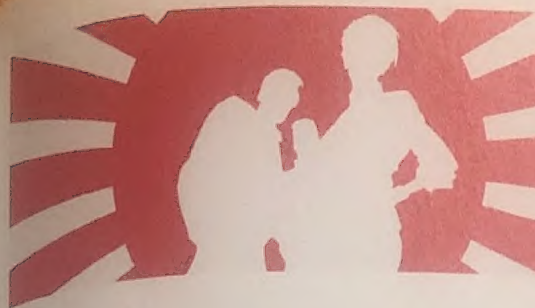
LOST ONES FAN ART PAGE
109 South Ellicott Street
Williamsville, NY
14221-6922

Or you can e-mail:

thelostones@thelostones.com

NOTE: Artwork will not be
returned. Any entries not
printed will be displayed
online at
www.thelostones.com

JULIE MIYAMOTO
Johnston City, TN



the lost & found dept.

Welcome to what will become our letters page, currently known as THE LOST AND FOUND DEPT., as of the next issue. Should any of the readers out there come up with a better suggestion for a logo to use on this page, feel free to submit your idea. If I use it, you'll receive acknowledgement, and a piece of Lost Ones original art.

Since I have a page to fill this issue in the meantime, I thought I'd take this opportunity to say a few things I've been wanting to for a long time.

As I write this just before the book is being sent to the printers, I am reminded it's been fourteen years since I landed my first professional assignment as a comic book illustrator.

Since that time I've written and illustrated a number of stories for a variety of series, including STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE, ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, CAPTAIN ATOM, THE JAGUAR, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., GREEN HORNET, FLARE, SHADOWBLADE, ARCHIE & FRIENDS, and BETTY among many others, for a variety of publishers such as DC, Marvel, Malibu, Now, Eternity and several others.

My most notable accomplishment until now beyond my STAR TREK assignments has been a six year and counting stint with Archie comics, writing and drawing a number of stories featuring SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA, to say nothing of contributing to the company's core cast of characters whenever time has allowed.

It's because of working on SONIC and KNUCKLES -- which originally started out as merely the opportunity to create stories featuring my son's favorite characters -- that the experience has grown and evolved into something more, providing the impetus of why I'm now embarking into uncertain waters with the launch of my own self-created series.

Whatever happens, I'm grateful to have this opportunity, and I'd like to thank the following people who helped me along the way, in one form or another.

I'd like to start with Bob Greenberger, who gave me a shot with my first pro assignment on the WHO'S WHO IN STAR TREK project. Other industry professionals who assisted in my development include Dick Giordano, John Romita, Don Perlin, Elliot S! Maggin, Michael Golden, Jim Owsley, Victor Gorelick, Paul Castiglia, Scott Fulop, Justin Gabriele and Jim Valentino.

Then there's the usual support group consisting of the requisite relatives -- my uncles Norm, Daniel, Stephen and Paul, aunts Lucy, Florence, Belinda and Emily, my grandmother Florence -- and close friends -- Ray, Brad, Demmy, Al, Anita, Laura, Danny, Doug, Tom, Linda, Ron, Jenny and anyone else I may have inadvertently left out.

Among those no longer with us, but who certainly were there for me when I needed them include Kim Yale and Larry Juliano, as well as my father Kenneth, dziadzia Stephen, great-aunts Jean and Frances and surrogate mom Camille Winter.

A special thanks goes to a special group without whom I would have never made it this far -- my mother Rita, my brothers Tim and John, and my other family -- George Sr, George Jr and Tom Winter.

Above all else, however, are the four most special people in my life -- Stephen, Cara, Colin and Bernie, for whom this book is dedicated. There's no way I could have done this without you.

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